





MARYLAND COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

CONDUCTED BY JAMES HALL, GENERAL AGENT OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

New Series.

BALTIMORE, MAY 16, 1842.

Vol. 1.—No. 12.

GENERAL COLONIZATION CONVENTION.

We had the honour of attending the General Colonization Convention, which commenced its session in Washington city on Wednesday, May 4th, a slight sketch of the proceeding of which we give below—taken from the minutes of the secretary, with the exception of the few remarks made by us, which we have inserted at length, not from their comparative merit, but from the fact that we could accurately repeat our own remarks, but should fear to take the like liberty with those of any one else. We understand however, that a full report will be given of the very able speeches of the Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate, Messrs. Rives and Morehead: the highly interesting remarks of the Hon. C. F. Mercer, and of the powerful appeal made by Mr. Key at the close of the convention, and we shall avail ourselves of the privilege of laying them before our readers in our next number.

The question now arises, what good has the convention effected? And we believe we can answer it in a manner most gratifying to the friends of the cause. As we firmly believe the true ground has at last been taken, with regard to the whole matter, and if success does not crown our efforts, we believe the whole scheme must be abandoned. Government protection and state action must be had, or the full fruition of a scheme so grand cannot be realized. True, the colonies may continue gradually to increase and prosper, supported only by the donations of philanthropic individuals, and managed solely by voluntary associations of those whose hearts are warm in the cause, but they never will be able to fulfil the grand designs of the founders of the institution. It was never intended by them that the Colonization Societies should, unaided by either the state or general governments or both, prosecute this scheme. The attempt to found colonies on the coast of Africa by the Colonization Society, was a mere experiment to test its practicability; no doubt then existing, that this object once effected, the system of colonizing the free coloured people and the manumitted slaves, would be executed either by the general or state governments. The experiment has been tried, and not only the bare practicability of establishing colonies there, capable of self-government, has been demon-

strated, but collateral results of the most beneficent and exalted character have been produced in the execution of this scheme. It is now time to appeal, with all the powerful arguments that we are possessed of from the general and imposing character of our undertaking and the vast and beneficial results which thus far crowned our efforts, to the ruling powers of the land, to come to the rescue, and complete a work which has the most powerful claims upon the statesman and patriot, as well as the philanthropist and christian. So thought the convention, and to this end were all their measures adapted and their efforts aimed. And from the high standing of those who readily come forward and boldly pledging themselves to advocate the claims of this cause in the councils of the nation, we have the strongest reason to hope that the Colonization Society will be placed on an entire new basis, and that the general results so ardently desired and so prophetically foreseen by the whole founders of the cause will most speedily be consummated. We can with reason expect from the most scrupulous interpreters of the constitution, an advocacy of a general superintendence and patronage to these colonies on the part of the general government. This the colonies can in truth and justice claim for themselves, rather as a matter of *right* than *favour*, on account of the very great advantages resulting to American commerce through their instrumentality. We can reasonably expect from the general government all aid requisite for any purposes, other than the transportation of emigrants and their support during acclimation. This granted, it at once becomes the duty and interest of the several states in the Union, who feel disposed from any cause whatever, political or moral or both conjoined, to take the business into their own hands and at their own proper cost and expense, colonize their own free people of colour and manumitted slaves in Africa. The action on all matters respecting the coloured population, belongs exclusively to the states themselves, and if they *will act*, foreign intercourse *will cease to annoy*; if they *will not* they cannot expect to remain quiet.

We trust the memorial which we publish, addressed to the governments of the several states of the Union, will have the effect to induce them to take this subject into full consideration. *Consideration* thereon is all that is wanting to produce *action*. All must come to the conclusion that there is no other ground on which the people of this Union can act with harmony upon the subject of their coloured population, *than colonization with their own consent in Africa*. What will be the precise and definite action of the state legislatures we are unable to say. Doubtless some, who in fact have little interest in the matter, may give it the go-by. Others will be disposed to make some appropriations to the American Colonization Society. But we trust there are some, among whom will be Virginia and Kentucky, who will take a stand by the side of Maryland and found new states, bearing their own names, where they can colonize their own coloured population, who will not only cherish the free institutions of their parent state, but the memory of their benefactors, who have thus done their utmost to repay to Africa and the Africans, the wrongs which their fathers have suffered in a less fortunate period of the time.

SKETCH OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF
THE FRIENDS OF AFRICAN COLONIZATION, IN WASHINGTON.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CAPITOL, 4th May, 1842.

On motion, Hon. Joseph Underwood, of Kentucky, was appointed President, and M. St. Clair Clarke and Jno. Underwood, were appointed Secretaries. Rev. William Hawley invoked a blessing on the meeting.—R. R. Gurley, Secretary of the American Colonization Society, addressed the Convention, and introduced the following resolutions:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the American Colonization Society, like our federal Union, rests upon principles in which all wise, patriotic and benevolent men may agree, and by the support of which they promote the good of our common country, the best interests of our coloured population, the suppression of the African slave trade, and the moral and intellectual renovation of Africa.

Resolved, That this society, in the prosecution of its exclusive object, the colonization, with their consent, of the people of colour residing in our country, in Africa, or such other place as congress shall deem most expedient, being required by the terms of its constitution to co-operate with the general government, and such of the states as may adopt regulations on the subject, may justly look for such aid and support from the federal and other governments of the country, as they may deem consistent with their constitutional power and duty.

Resolved, That the results contemplated in the execution of their scheme, by the fathers of the American Colonization Society, were of unequalled grandeur and beneficence, and that the success of their efforts in the establishment, mostly by private means, of the colony of Liberia, is demonstration that these results can be, and therefore ought to be, by the application of adequate powers and resources, attained.

Resolved, That the members and friends of the Colonization Society are solemnly pledged before earth and Heaven, not to abandon in their weakness, those persons of colour who, confidently, under their auspices, have gone forth in the face of difficulty and danger, to plant upon the barbarous shore of their mother country liberty and christianity, but rather to extend to them assistance and encouragement in their honorable and magnanimous enterprise.

Resolved, That at the time, when our country is agitated by conflicting opinions upon the subject of our coloured population—when Africa is deprived annually, by the most cruel commerce, of nearly or quite half a million of her inhabitants—when thousands are turning their thoughts to Liberia as a small and attractive christian state, looking forth to our hopes of the redemption of the most degraded and afflicted portion of the world—when this colony is exposed to extreme danger—we are urged, by the highest and most affecting considerations that ever roused patriotic and christian men to action, to adopt a national policy that shall tend to unite our own citizens, benefit our coloured population, overthrow the slave trade, and enduringly bless two races of men, and two of the largest quarters of the globe.

Resolved, That the Convention are deeply sensible of the favour shown the colony of Liberia, by the successive administrations of our government, in the maintenance of such naval force, and the application of such means on the African coast, as may be necessary to guard our commerce, (already becoming of great value on that coast,) fulfil all the humane provisions of the law for the benefit of re-captured Africans, and effectually suppress the African slave trade.

Resolved, That it should be deeply impressed upon the public mind, that both as auxiliaries and protectors to the interests of the American commerce on the African coast, and as a means for the extinction of the slave trade, the colonies of Liberia are of incalculable importance, and deserve the vigorous and generous support of this nation.

Resolved, That it is earnestly recommended to the friends of African colonization throughout the Union, to call conventions in their respective states for the advancement of the cause, and to the increase of the friends of the society.

Resolved, That it is recommended to the Directors of the African Colonization Society, to consider the propriety of appointing a well qualified agent, or agents, to visit the different states, to promote the assembling of such conventions, and to communicate to them the interesting facts in relation to the prospects and condition of the society and colony.

Resolved, That the gallant officers of our navy, who have repeatedly rendered such important services to the colonies of Liberia, are entitled to the warmest thanks of all the friends of our country and humanity.

Resolved, That since the cause of the American Colonization Society contributes emphatically and powerfully to establish and propagate civilization and christianity in Africa, it should be dear to all the friends of missions, and since, to meet numerous applications of interesting companies of free coloured persons and liberated slaves for removal to Liberia, the society has chartered a large ship, and assumed heavy responsibilities, far beyond its means, for the outfit of an expedition of more than two hundred emigrants, all the friends of the society be invited to send in their donations to its treasury, and the clergy of every name, to take up collections for it on or about the fourth of July next.

Mr. Key introduced Dr. Hall, General Agent of the Maryland State Colonization Society, and who had resided many years in the Liberian colonies, to the meeting, and called upon him to make a statement of the present condition of the commerce of the coast of Africa.

Dr. Hall responded to the call, and in answer to several interrogatories addressed to him, made the following statements.

"With regard to the African commerce—that the legitimate commerce on the west coast of Africa was now mostly in the hands of the English, and principally from the following causes, viz: the slave trade, previous to the last half century, was prosecuted more vigorously by the English, under the special patronage of government, than by any other nation; possession was taken of a vast extent of coast, and forts and fortifications were erected for the special protection of this traffic by their commercial vessels; consequently, at the abolition of this traffic, they had far greater facilities for

prosecuting a lawful and honourable commerce than other nations. The principal articles too, used in this traffic were either produced or manufactured in England, or in their India possessions, which gave them for a time almost exclusive control over the lawful commerce, as they had before maintained over the slave trade. Why they retain this ascendancy, is in some degree, doubtless attributed to the fact, that there is a greater demand for articles of African produce, in England, than in any other part of the world; that London is the great centre of commerce; and that there is more capital in England to be invested in commerce than in any other country. But there is another cause, independent of these, which has operated strongly to secure to the English merchant, a monopoly of this trade. I refer to the fact that their commerce has been fostered and protected to a greater extent than that of any other nation. They have uniformly maintained a force on that coast, amply sufficient to render their commerce as secure in Africa, as in any section of the civilized world. They in fact, have had the absolute control of the commercial relations of the whole coast. The vessels of other nations have been often necessitated to seek their protection, and which has to my knowledge, often been granted.—The effects of this protection has not been alone to preserve their vessels from violence from the natives and pirates, and to relieve sufferers by wrecks, sickness, or other disasters, but from the system of trade adopted there, a safe return for money invested in that trade, by English vessels, has been secured; and that too by a system of protection that has not been extended to the commerce of any other nation, to any thing like the same extent, and to American commerce, not at all. In the large marts of trade, as in the great rivers of the Bights of Benin and Biafra, the whole cargo of a vessel is at once put on shore into the hands of the native chiefs and trade men, and to the honour of barbarians alone, the owner of any other vessel but an English one, is dependant for his return cargo. The amount he receives will depend altogether upon the will of the chiefs and trade men, and generally just so far as they shall deem it for their interest to make payment, and to secure a continuance of the masters' trade, or to maintain a fair reputation—so far they will fulfil their contract.

But the case is far otherwise with the British trader, every port, bay, river or roadstead has been visited, and is often visited by a government vessel, and with the chiefs and head-trade-men of every tribe treaties of commerce, more or less definite have been made, and the fulfilment of the same is to a greater or less extent enforced. In most instances, no force or even a call for it is necessary, as the bare fact of its existence on the coast is equally efficient with its exercise. It is needless to remark that the American commerce has received no such protection, that but a very small part of the coast has ever been visited by any American vessel of war, and in no instance coming to my knowledge, has *any* intercourse taken place between them and the native chiefs. No American influence has, I believe, operated to increase, foster or protect the American commerce in Africa, except through the agency of the colonies of Liberia. The very founding of these colonies, embracing within their influence a coast line of some three hundred miles, has opened to us a commerce which was

before wholly monopolized by English trading vessels and the slave dealers.

Not only do the energetic and intelligent colonists vastly increase the exports of their little territory—concentrate the trade of the surrounding country—carry on open, fair and liberal commerce with vessels of all nations; but the colonies are a refuge and home to the American citizens visiting that coast from what course soever. They serve as regular ports of entry and clearance, where all important mercantile papers so essential in commercial operations can be obtained. They serve as hospitals for the sick and invalid seamen, who have ascended the baleful rivers on that coast. Again and again have I seen vessels steered into Mesurado roads by native kroomen, under the direction of the last surviving officer or crew of a vessel, which has ventured up the Nunez or Pongas, and which, had it not been for these colonies, would inevitably have been dismantled by the natives, and left to rot in their muddy creeks.

In cases of partial or total damage which, when for want of these colonies, the crews would fall a sacrifice to the African fever and the rough treatment of the natives, and when their voyage would be materially retarded or entirely broken up, the colonies have furnished a home for the unfortunate officers and seamen, and enabled the master to execute such documents as would secure insurance to the owner, or afforded such aid as to fit the vessel for the further prosecution of her voyage. In fact the American colonies have more than all other causes protected, fostered and increasing our commerce on the African coast.

With regard to the influence of the colonies, upon the missionary operations, I can answer that it is equally favourable and still more essential. It is a fact, that there has been a vast expenditure of life and money by the missionary societies of Great Britain, to establish missions in the various towns far to the windward of Sierra Leone, and every attempt without exception, has proved a failure. The attempt has not been a solitary one, but renewed from time to time for a period of years, and always with the same unhappy results. We can judge from this what would have been the inevitable consequence of the late attempt by American missionaries, on the coast line now occupied by the colonies of Liberia, where the natives were far more barbarous and less inclined to improvement. I am confident that they would have been attended with the like disasters. The advantages which the mission stations derive from the colonies are manifold, and must be obvious to every one. In the first place, their protection was absolutely necessary to the existence of the mission, to defend it from petty depredations and violence, as instance, the recent transactions at Heddington. Then, all the comforts and necessaries of life are alone secured by and through the labours of the colonists. By them their houses are built, and rendered tenantable, their services are always required in all domestic duties, even in health, and in sickness their services and assistance are indispensable. Independent of all this, the *most important, the most useful and most successful preachers and teachers in all the mission stations in Africa are the colonists themselves, under the superintendence of the white missionaries.* Coloured men are the most useful, and most efficient labourers in any cause or calling in Africa;

with a less amount of intelligence and talent than the white man, they can effect more.

In answer to your queries as to the capability of the Africo-American for self-government, and the fitness of the territory of Liberia for the establishment of a civilized and self-supporting community; I feel it only necessary to state in general terms, what are my thorough convictions from an intimate acquaintance with all the colonies for the past eleven years, and for facts tending to show the correctness of any impressions, I refer you to the details and statistics of the colonies, which have been from time to time transmitted to this country and laid before the American public.

The Liberians have shown a capacity for maintaining a free and independent government—a capacity and disposition for a fair degree of moral and intellectual improvement. The soil of Liberia is one of the most productive in the world, and capable of yielding all the varieties of vegetables and all the great staple commodities of the tropics. The climate of Africa is one that will prove as favourable to the American emigrant as does the climate of our western states to the New Englander emigrating thither.

In fine, all that is wanting to form and perpetuate on the coast of Africa an independent, christian government, is an increase of the number of *select* emigrants, an increase for a certain period of the appropriation to each individual on his arrival and a general protection from the government of this country. But without these advantages, carried out to a much greater extent than heretofore, I am equally well convinced that the colonies at present established on the coast, will not be able to maintain themselves against the various adverse influences which are constantly operating against them; they will either be swallowed up in the mass of barbarians by whom they are surrounded, or they will claim and receive the patronage and protection of the English government."

The Hon. James Morehead, of Kentucky, addressed the Convention at considerable length, and with great power, warmth and energy, calling forth the warmest approbation of the audience.

F. S. Key also addressed the Convention.

On motion of Mr. Gurley, the Convention adjourned to meet at the Masonic Hall on Thursday evening, the 5th inst., at 7½ o'clock.

MASONIC HALL, 5th May, 1842.

Convention met in pursuance to adjournment.

Mr. Underwood again took the chair. Mr. Gurley made a warm and earnest appeal to the convention, stating fully the importance of the cause, and the necessity of vigorous efforts in its behalf. Mr. Key again proposed certain questions to Dr. Hall, with regard to the commerce of Africa—the slave trade—the condition of the American colonies of Liberia—the mission stations in Africa—and the mutual benefit of the colonists and missionaries to each other, and their co-operation in civilizing Africa: to all of which answers were given, as embodied in the report of proceedings last evening.

The Hon. William C. Rives then addressed the convention, and was listened to with the deepest interest, and greeted at the close with the warmest applause.

He was followed by Mr. Key, Rev. Mr. Parker, and Mr. Morehead: the latter gentleman presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the executive committee of the American Colonization Society be requested by this convention, to prepare a memorial to the legislatures of the several states of the United States, calling their attention to the present condition and prospects of the colonies on the west coast of Africa, and soliciting their co-operation in the promotion of the scheme, by the appropriations of money, or otherwise, and that the memorial be forwarded to the governors of the several states, with a request to lay the same before their respective legislatures, and that the memorial be presented for the approbation of this convention at its next meeting.

On motion, the convention adjourned to meet on Friday evening, at the same place, at 7½ o'clock.

MASONIC HALL, *Friday evening, May 6th.*

Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Letter from Mr. Jno. N. McLeod, delegate to the convention from New York, was read, and ordered, on motion of Mr. Whittlesey, to be filed among the records of the society.

Mr. Gurley presented a memorial to be presented to the respective state legislatures, in conformity with the resolution of yesterday, which was read, and on motion of Mr. Morehead adopted, and it was ordered that a copy thereof be forwarded to the legislature of each of the several states of the Union, for their consideration and action. The resolutions which were laid before the convention by Mr. Gurley, on the first evening of the session, were then severally read and adopted.

A resolution was then offered by Mr. Gurley, expressive of the profound grief and regret which this convention feel on account of the death of one of its vice-presidents and liberal contributors—the Hon. Elijah Paine, of Vermont—which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ellsworth, as a member of the executive committee of the American Colonization Society, made an earnest and thrilling appeal in behalf of the society, stating many facts connected with its present position, showing the strong necessity for immediate aid to its treasury.

Mr. Whittlesey, chairman of the executive committee, followed to the same effect, whereupon, on motion of Mr. Key, it was *Resolved*, That a public meeting be held in this city on Sunday evening, with the express purpose of raising funds for the immediate aid of the society, and that a committee of three be appointed to make preparations for the meeting, and to procure a general attendance of the citizens of the city and district. The chair nominated Messrs. Key, Gurley and Seaton, as the committee.

On motion, the convention adjourned to meet on Monday, the 9th inst., at 4½ street Church.

Monday, May 9th, 7½ o'clock, evening.

The convention met pursuant to adjournment in 4½ street church. Judge Underwood in the chair, and M. St. Clair Clarke, secretary—meeting opened by prayer.

Mr. Gurley, Mr. Ellsworth, and Mr. Whittlesey addressed the meeting. Mr. Mason, M. C. from Ohio, followed. Mr. Mercer, of Virginia, then made a most powerful address, giving a history of the principles of action of the first projectors of the scheme, declaring it to be the duty of congress to act in the matter.

Mr. Key then addressed the meeting for more than two hours, and was listened to with the most propound attention. He entered fully into the reasons for the present and decided action of the general government, in aid of the colonies and the society, and moved that a memorial be presented to congress, which was resolved upon. The convention adjourned at about 12 o'clock, *sine die*.

NOTE.—We were unable to obtain the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the last evening, but give the above from recollection. We hope the speeches of Messrs. Mercer and Key will be published at length, as they were replete with facts, statistics, sound arguments and wise and definite propositions.

MEMORIAL OF THE COLONIZATION CONVENTION, ASSEMBLED AT WASHINGTON, MAY 4TH, 1812, TO THE LEGISLATURES OF THE SEVERAL STATES IN THE UNITED STATES.

The convention of the friends of African Colonization, assembled at Washington City, respectfully represents, that the American Colonization Society having been established near the close of the year 1816, by a respectable body of citizens from every section of this Union, for the humane and philanthropic purpose (in co-operation with the general government, and such of the states as might adopt regulations on the subject) of founding colonies of free persons of colour, with their own consent, on the coast of Africa, proceeded to explore that coast, purchase by fair negotiation with the native tribes, an eligible tract of country, and to assist such free persons of colour as were disposed to emigrate in their removal and settlement in Africa.

Impressed with the difficulty and magnitude of the enterprise, and the importance, if not absolute necessity of the countenance and aid of the government, memorials were early addressed to congress, and in consequence, sustained as they were, by the avowed opinions of the legislatures of several states, measures were adopted by congress for the more effectual suppression of the African slave trade, by its denunciation and punishment as piracy, and authority was conferred upon the President of the United States, to make such regulations and arrangements as he might deem expedient for the safe-keeping, support and removal beyond the limits of the United States, of all such Africans or persons of colour as might be delivered and brought within their jurisdiction, and to appoint a proper person or persons residing on the coast of Africa, as agent or agents for receiving these persons of colour, delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the slave trade, by the commanders of the United States armed vessels.

The then President of the United States, Mr. Munroe, perceiving that the benevolent provisions of this law for the benefit of the re-captured

Africans, might be most economically and effectually fulfilled, by securing a home for these persons within the limits, and under the protection of such colony as might be founded by the efforts and donations of the members and friends of this society, determined to act in co-operation with the society, in regard to the station to be chosen for the temporary or permanent (as might be) residence of such Africans, and when the society had obtained possession by purchase of a portion of the tract of country in Africa, since designated by the name of Liberia, such persons were placed upon its soil under the care of an agent of government, with such means of subsistence and defence as might enable them ultimately to obtain the advantages which it was the endeavour of the society to secure to those voluntarily engaged under their auspices, in the establishment of their colony.

Thus the colony of Liberia rose into existence, both as a home for the re-captured Africans, restored by the humanity of our government, to their own country, and as a well organized community of free coloured men, prepared and disposed to extend their useful arts, laws, civilization and christianity far abroad among the native population of Africa.

Animated by the idea that their scheme was equally patriotic and christian, tending to unite the minds of our countrymen on subjects in reference to which, differing and warring opinions are to be deprecated, engaging their thoughts and exertions in measures to remove with their own consent our free people of colour, and such as may become free, from circumstances and influences that embarrass and depress, to those which stimulate, encourage and exalt, and which must enable them to secure for themselves and posterity, a free, independent national existence, where such an existence may prove, with increasing power and element, destructive of the atrocious slave trade, and of renovating, moral and intellectual life to the barbarous and uncounted tribes and nations of Africa, withdrawing the people of Africa from the shades of ignorance, from cruel and degrading superstitions, from wars and their fruitful parent, that infamous commerce which annually, for centuries, has consigned vast numbers of its unoffending inhabitants of all ages, both sexes, and of all conditions, to slavery or death, to industry, to the arts and practices of civilized life, to lawful and profitable and peaceful trade, and the inestimable privileges of laws, letters, liberty and christianity; stirred by these high considerations, this society has proceeded mostly by private means in its great enterprise. Individuals from every state of our confederacy, of every political and religious opinion, the clergy, and the churches of every name have viewed the plan of the society as of a character not only unexceptionable, but of comprehensive benevolence, operating for good in all relations and directions, embracing in its promised beneficence, the interests of both the white and coloured races in this country, and of the more numerous population of Africa.

The settlements of Liberia demonstrate the entire practicableness of the scheme. Though embracing but a few thousand emigrants, they exhibit on a distant and barbarous shore, models of good government, of free institutions, of order, industry, civilized manners and christianity. Their jurisdiction extends along several hundred miles of coast, and the salutary influence of their example along the coast, and into the interior still further.

They have legislative assemblies, court of justice, schools and churches. But it must be recollected that these communities which have done so much for themselves, and so much to spread out the advantages of our civilization and religion before rude and heathen men, who have passed laws for the extirpation of the slave trade, on every spot touched by their rightful authorities, are of a people who here enjoyed but very imperfect opportunities and inducements for improvement, who left us almost without means, many of them recently liberated slaves, and all going forth unfortified and unsustained by either national or state power, to found in an untried climate, on the borders of a continent remote from civilized nations, a republican commonwealth and the church of God. They have nobly effected their object. But their condition is one of weakness, of difficulty, of danger, demanding in the judgment of your memorialists, the sympathy, the immediate and generous support, not only of individuals, but of every state legislature in the Union. To abandon or even to neglect the communities of Liberia, at this time, when it is clear that all the great and beneficial ends proposed by their establishment may, and that by means which divided among the several states, or paid out of the common funds of the nation, would effect injuriously no one interest of the country, and which will be more than repaid, with interest, by the advantages of African commerce to be received through these settlements, would be not only a violation of solemn obligations to the people of these colonies, but as a sacrifice of the important commercial interests of our country. Your memorialists have abundant evidence to show that these interests on the African coast are becoming of great value, and that to Africa we may look for a market of vast extent to some of our great staple productions, as well as for our manufactures—and that the returns will be in palm oil, camwood, ivory, gold dust, the precious gums, and other of the richest products of the most favoured regions of the tropics. It is unnecessary for your memorialists gravely to attend to the various political, social and economical considerations that should operate with wise and patriotic men, more especially in our southern, and to some extent in all the states, to incline them to regard with favour, the plan and policy of this society. Nor is it important to consider how far in the progress of this scheme, there may arise some friendly co-operation between the general government, whose peculiar province it is to foster and protect the commerce of the country, and whose acknowledged duty, to suppress the African slave trade, which is still depriving Africa every year of half a million of inhabitants, and the governments of the several states impelled by the combined considerations of interest and humanity, to contribute to it their aid, to adopt the language of a former memorial. It is the duty of the society to place the scheme in which they are engaged before all who have the power to accomplish it, and to trust that the wisdom and patriotism of those to whom it is committed, will devise the most proper and effectual means for its success, and they prefer in earnestly soliciting for this enterprise, the favour and pecuniary aid of the legislature which they have the honour to address, to dwell upon these elevating thoughts, so well embodied in the language slightly modified, of the first memorial ever submitted by the society to the general legislature

of the Union. 'Independently said the President and Board of Managers at that time, of the motives derived from political foresight and civil prudence on the one hand, and from moral justice and philanthropy on the other, there are additional considerations and more expanded views to engage the sympathies and excite the ardour of a liberal and enlightened people. It may be reserved for this nation, the first to denounce an inhuman and abominable traffic, in the guilt and disgrace of which most of the civilized nations of the world were partakers, to become the honourable instrument under Divine Providence, of conferring a still higher blessing upon that large and interesting portion of mankind, benefitted by that deed of justice; by demonstrating that a race of men composing numerous tribes, spread over a continent of vast and unexplored extent, fertility and riches; unknown to the enlightened nations of antiquity, and who had yet made no progress in the refinement of civilization, for whom history has preserved no monuments of arts or arms, that even this hitherto ill-fated race may cherish the hope of beholding the orient star revealing the best and highest aims and attributes of man. Out of such materials to rear the glorious edifice of well ordered and polished society, upon the deep and sure foundations of equal laws and diffusive education, would give a sufficient title to be enrolled among the illustrious benefactors of mankind, whilst it afforded a precious and consolatory evidence of the all prevailing power of liberty, enlightened by knowledge and corrected by religion. If the experiment in its more remote consequences should ultimately tend to the diffusion of similar blessings, through these vast regions and unnumbered tribes, yet obscured in primeval darkness, reclaim the rude wanderer from a life of wretchedness to civilization and humanity, and convert the blind idolater from gross and abject superstition to the holy charities, the sublime morality, and humanizing discipline of the gospel—the nation or the individual that shall have taken the most conspicuous lead in the achieving the benignant enterprise, will have raised a monument of that true and imperishable glory, founded on the moral approbation and gratitude of the human race; unapprovable to all but the elected instruments of divine beneficence—a glory with which the most splendid achievements of human force or power must sink in the competition, and appear insignificant and vulgar in the comparison. And above all should it be considered, that the nation or the individual whose energies have been faithfully given to this august work, will have secured by this exalted beneficence, the favour of that Being whose compassion is over all His works, and whose unspeakable records will never fail to bless the humblest effort to do good to His creatures.'

The colony of Cape Palmas is a conclusive evidence of what a single state, and by an appropriation of a few thousand dollars annually, can accomplish in this cause. A prosperous colony of about six hundred emigrants, has risen with all the order and institutions of a well organized society, under the fostering care of the legislature and citizens of Maryland, at the cost of less than the establishment of a single plantation of the south.

But it is in vain to expect that either the various interesting settlements,

scattered along an extended line of coast, under the care of the parent colony, and opening a rich inviting territory for the possession and home of our free coloured population, or the settlement of Cape Palmas, can prosper or maintain themselves against the adverse influences of great power, with which they are contending, effect the high purposes for which they have been planted, unless these numbers shall by emigration be augmented, and increased funds be supplied by the bounty of individuals, the states or the nation.

An annual appropriation for the present, of even ten thousand dollars from the legislature of each state in the Union, the aid which may be anticipated from the donations of benevolence and piety, would throw a new light of hope and cheerfulness over the settlement of Liberia, and give assurance that Africa herself must rise from ruin, to stand in honour and power among the nations of the world.

JOSEPH UNDERWOOD, *Chairman*.

MATTHEW ST. CLAIR CLARKE, *Secretary*.

[From The Spirit of Missions.]

SELECTION FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE REV. DR. SAVAGE.

AFRICA.

Character of the Climate on the Gold Coast.—The many deaths that have occurred at different periods, at Cape Coast, have given to it the character of being unfavourable to health. The main part of the settlement is elevated, and freely swept by breezes from the sea, two facts necessary to salubrity in Africa. An evident local cause of disease, in my estimation, lies in the stagnant pools within the native town, and the filthy habits of its inhabitants. Effluvia exceedingly unpleasant, are constantly evolved, and, at certain seasons, must prove very deleterious to the health of foreigners.

Some peculiar diseases.—Some local diseases exist here which are exceedingly repulsive, and one would suppose, much to be dreaded; but from their being so common, they seem to attract but little notice. They are, especially, the *guinea worm* and *elephant leg*; neither of which occur on the Ivory or Grain Coast. Both are known at almost all points on the Gold Coast.

The seat of the worm is the skin. It often burrows in the fascia of the tendons and muscles; but, most generally, may be traced by the fingers, feeling like a small cord beneath the surface. It makes its appearance externally by a small white vesicle, preceded and accompanied by severe pain and inflammation, often resulting in tedious ulcers, and sometimes in the loss of the use of the limb by permanent stiffness, or amputation. It may make its appearance in any part of the body, but the lower extremities are most frequently affected. Instances are related of its exit from the eye, and under the tongue. Two or more sometimes appear at the same time, generally but one. Their length varies from two to six feet.

The cause is not satisfactorily known. Various conjectures and theories have been started. Some say the rudiments are taken in by drinking the water, and others, through the skin in bathing, &c. The existence of the disease being known, and the subcutaneous cellular tissue of the lower extremities being its nidus, but little difficulty will arise in the mind of an *observer* as to its proximate cause, when he sees men, women, and children, as I have, bathing in pools of water green and evidently malignant from

stagnation. The same is often used for drinking and culinary purposes by the natives.

The Europeans occasionally have it, who use the rain water kept in tanks. It is said never to have been detected in *tank water*. But, while at the mission house, I discovered, in the act of drinking, *two* in one tumbler, which, upon examination by the microscope, proved to be the true filaria, or this 'Guinea worm.' They were about two lines in length, and upon the head of one, the *black speck*, seen through the vesicle as they first appear upon the surface, was distinctly visible.

Great care is required in the process of extraction. If broken it will be followed by protracted suppuration and extensive ulcers, leading often to loss of the limb. They sometimes recede from the surface once having made their appearance, and attack a distant part, or never re-appear during life.

The thought of being thus a prey to worms during life, I must acknowledge, is truly revoking; but upon reflection, it may be asked, why should it be more so than disease in any other form? The unpleasantness of the idea lies, perhaps, like that of many others in the associations connected with it—*death* and the *grave*. There is, seemingly, an incongruity presented to the mind.

The other disease is the '*elephant's leg*,' erroneously called elephantiasis; the latter, properly speaking, being a totally different affection. The leg is hard and enormously swollen, resembling in its thickened and wrinkled skin that of the elephant, from which fact it takes its name. As it occurs here it is probable the result of neglected or badly treated intermittent fever. At the recurrence of almost every febrile paroxysm, the effusion increases. The disease soon becomes chronic; the great size and heavy wrinkles of the limb become permanent—and the parts at first acutely sensible to the pain from diseased action, ultimately lose their susceptibility almost entirely, when the patient is obliged to drag about with him this '*load of leg*,' from which he can find no relief but in the grave.

The town of Cape Coast is laid out to some extent in streets, some of which are ornamented with shade trees, mostly the *Hibiscus populneus*, which is evidently an exotic, probably from the East Indies, of which it is a native. Other species abound in Africa, though very few of them are described. There are ten or twelve handsome European dwellings erected, at different times, by the white residents, of stone and mud, and stuccoed.

The predominant rocks are a handsome granite, and micaceous slate; upon an extensive bed of the latter, the castle and fort are built. It is found almost, if not quite, throughout the western coast, and extends indefinitely into the interior. Considerable quantities of a dull white quartz appear also. Some of the natives' houses are likewise built of these stones. Their town is said to number about 10,000 souls.

They have a good road extending into the interior about five miles, and leading to a handsome plantation improved by James Swanzy, Esq. Much credit is due to Mr. S. and the superintendent, Mr. Wilson, for its present appearance. They are attempting on a large scale the cultivation of the coffee tree, of which they have many thousand plants. The seed was introduced from the island of St. Thomas, in the *Bay of Biafra*, whence nearly all the 'African coffee' is derived. It possesses a superior flavor.

Fruits and Flowers.—In the garden my eye was cheered with the sight of the different culinary vegetables of Europe, growing with vigour. The grounds were ornamented with various tropical fruit trees, as orange, lemon, (sweet and sour) tamarind, Jaca tree, a species of the *bread fruit*, (*octocarpus integrifolia*), &c. They were greatly mutilated by the Ashantees in

their late war with the British, who overran the whole region. Large fields of corn were seen to have been entirely cut off by the locusts, who may be traced by like devastation far on to the westward.

In the vicinity may be seen the cotton plant, (*gossypium*) growing wild. A few years since Mr. Swanzy gave it a fair trial. It yielded well, and large quantities were exported to Europe, but without profit. His present enterprising attempt with coffee is attended with brighter prospects.

The Gold Coast is the region for the magnificent cotton tree, (*Bombax*) of which there are different species to be seen. The *B-heptaphyllum* is the one from which most of the canoes here are made. It grows to an enormous size, and affords canoes of large dimensions. Were it not for this provision, landing would be always more or less difficult, and often dangerous. The use of boats is dispensed with, while the canoe is more than a substitute for the safe landing both of persons and of cargo.

This happens to be the period when, what are called the '*customs of the New-Year*' are celebrated; in other words, the time of harvest. The new yam and corn are now coming in; an event which has been celebrated, from time immemorial, with debasing excesses, and the wildest extravagances. Among the Ashantees, and other large interior tribes, this season is observed with human sacrifices! but immediately on the coast within the influence of the forts, it is done with drumming, firing, dancing, screaming, drinking and fighting.

On these occasions, the wives of the caboceers, and other prominent men, appear in white dresses, (not of satin, nor muslins,) but of a substance like chalk rubbed over their bodies almost naked; while gold of the richest hue dangles in great profusion from the various points of their persons. I have seen some who could not have had on, at a moderate estimate, less than three or four hundred dollars worth. In the interior, from which the greater part of the gold is derived, it is worn in astonishing profusion.

Gold, manner of obtaining it, &c.—The whole soil throughout the Gold Coast may be said to be impregnated with this precious metal, even to the water's edge. Women and children may be seen at almost any time washing the earth for gold, but especially after a heavy rain. It is most abundant after the rainy season; during which the water rushing down in torrents from the neighbouring hills, bears onward this valuable deposit, enriching the plains, and the banks, and channels of the streams, in its course; and, thus is realized the poet's conception:

'Where Africa's sunny fountains
Roll down their golden sands.'

The burthen of the African's prayer is, *rain to make the corn and yams grow, and bring down the gold from the mountains.* It is related of a negro from the interior, who had recently been made a slave and brought to the coast, that he was detected ardently praying for rain; when asked the reason, he replied that it might wash down gold from the mountains, and thus enable his friends to redeem him.

It is found in the interior below the surface of the earth, and occurs in quartz and sand-stone rocks, both of which, as I have seen them, are very loose in structure, which accounts for the increased quantity after a rain; as well as for its occurrence in sandy deposits. It is obtained mostly in very small pieces, and, from the predominance of these particles, has received the general name of '*gold dust*.' It is so minutely divided, and extensively distributed, that seldom more than the value of fifty cents can be procured on the coast by washing all day; more often, the half, or fourth of that sum only. Much of Divine wisdom appears in this minute division, and wide distribution. But little else than seeking gold would be done

were it otherwise, and, even now, from its effects upon the character of the natives, it is pronounced 'a curse' by the merchants themselves. Where it is found in the greatest quantities, there indolence and aversion to agriculture are proverbial. As the passion for rum is rapidly on the increase, and a small quantity of gold will procure the necessary quantity, that little is sought for with avidity for this gratification.

While here I procured a perfect specimen of the *goliathus drurii* (male) from Mr. Henry Smith, to whom I am indebted for many other favours.

Oct. 21st.—Having now waited three weeks for an opportunity to Cape Palmas without any prospect, I felt it my duty to proceed to Dix Cove, about 45 miles distant, where I could spend the interval in missionary effort, and inquiring respecting the more windward points.

22d.—Left Cape coast at 5 p. m. in canoe by sea for Elmina; the waves were high and wind strong, so that we did not arrive till 8 at night. I was met at the landing by Mr. Simons, one of the principal merchants of the place, who, as he had done before, freely proffered me his house, and its many comforts. Though a native, one would suppose him to be an European in complexion, manners and style of living. He has never been off the Gold Coast, yet speaks and writes the English and Dutch languages fluently.

Saw at Mr. Rhules' a female of the magnificent beetle, *goliathus drurii*, which, in my eyes, was worth double of the splendid gold chain of native manufacture exhibited at the same time as a greater curiosity. These beetles are erroneously called here, elephant beetles;—the latter is a scaribæus (*taurus*?)—a genus totally different.

Difference of Climate between the Gold and the Grain Coasts.—While here I had the privilege of examining the meteorological journal of Mr. Bartell, regularly kept for a number of years.—From this it would seem that the average temperature on the Gold Coast, is about two degrees higher than on the Grain Coast. The heat during the 'hot season,' is generally acknowledged to be more oppressive than even this thermometrical difference indicates. This is confirmed by the established customs on these two sections of the coast.—*There* it is the custom to suspend labour in the sun from 10 o'clock, A. M. to 3 o'clock, P. M. During these hours the Europeans likewise refrain from walking and travelling, and other ways of exposure to the sun. The contrary is the course on the Grain Coast. The same times, and number of hours for labour and travelling, are observed as in the temperate regions of Europe or America.

The same excess is remarked in reference to the violence and quantity of the rains during what is called the 'wet season.' They are much more moderate on the Grain Coast than here, or in the same latitudes on the windward coast. This excess is observable at Montserrado, and increases as we approach Cape De Verd.

We take this method of apprising the city contributors to the Md. State Col. Society that the Rev. John M. Roberts is now engaged in making collections, and we hope as they have not been called upon for the past two years, that they will be disposed even in these trying times to afford their accustomed aid, for it was never more wanted, and could never effect more good than at this moment. We have not room in this No. to acknowledge the contributions already received,—it will be done in our next.

✂ All communications intended for the Maryland Colonization Journal, or on business of the Society, should be addressed to DR. JAMES HALL, General Agent, Colonization Rooms, Post Office Building.

